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DE VEKADLC #0134 1271955
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FM JERUSALEM

TO THE WHITE HOUSE

SECRET/SENSITIVE 071931Z MAY 74

MAY 7, 1974

HAKTO 9

TO: WINSTON LORD
THROUGH: GENERAL SCOWCROFT
FROM: THE SECRETARY

DO5 3.3(b)(1) 25x1
E.O. 12958 as amended

PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM THE
SECRETARY TO THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR:

1. THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO TRY TO
RECONCILE THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL WITH A VIEW
TO ACHIEVING A DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THEM
ON THE PATTERN OF THAT CONCLUDED BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT.

2. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE DIVIDING SYRIA AND ISRAEL AT THIS
JUNCTURE IS THE QUESTION OF THE LINE OF DISENGAGEMENT. SYRIA IS
INSISTING THAT ISRAEL WITHDRAW ITS FORCES SUBSTANTIALLY WEST OF THE
LINE THAT EXISTED ON OCTOBER 6, 1973. ISRAEL HAS RESISTED THIS
AND UP TO NOW HAS NOT BEEN WILLING TO GO BEYOND WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE SALIENT WHICH IT CAPTURED DURING THE OCTOBER 1973 WAR. WE
HAVE BEEN MAKING A DETERMINED EFFORT WITH THE ISRAELIS IN THE BELIEF
THAT THERE MUST BE SOME WITHDRAWAL ON THE ISRAELI PART WEST
OF THE OCTOBER 6 LINE, INCLUDING KUNEITRA, IF WHAT SYRIA BELIEVES
ITS MINIMAL NECESSITIES ARE TO BE MET.

3. AS OUR CHINESE FRIENDS KNOW, THE SECRETARY HAS MADE
SEVERAL TRIPS TO BOTH ISRAEL AND SYRIA AS WELL AS VISITED A NUMBER
OF OTHER ARAB CAPITALS. ON THE BASIS OF OUR PAST CONVERSATIONS
WE HAVE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INSISTING ON A MORE
DIRECT ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS NOT THE DESIRE
OF EITHER OF THE PARTIES.

4. ON THAT OCCASSION THE SOVIETS URGED THAT THE SECRETARY
MEET WITH GROMYKO IN DAMASCUS. WE REFUSED THIS PROPOSAL. ON
THE ADVICE OF BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT WE KEPT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY
THAT AN INFORMAL MEETING COULD BE HELD ELSEWHERE. THE SOVIETS
RECENTLY PROPOSED SUCH A MEETING BE HELD IN CYPRUS, AND WE
AGREED TO TUESDAY, MAY 7, AND BEFORE THE ISRAELIS GIVE US THEIR
LATEST CONCRETE IDEAS FOR ME TO TAKE TO DAMASCUS ON WEDNESDAY.
AS IS KNOWN, THE SOVIETS HAVE WANTED THIS MEETING WITH US LARGELY

***** * * * * * WHSR COMMENT * * * * * * * * * *

SCOWCROFT MCFARLANE ROONAN SEC FLE

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Per
By LC Date 3/15/2008
LC Date 6/4/2008

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TO SHOW THE ARAB WORLD AND PEOPLE AT HOME THEY ARE INVOLVED
IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS CURRENTLY IN TRAIN BETWEEN THE PARTIES.

5. BECAUSE THE SECRETARY DID NOT HAVE THE ISRAELI'S LATEST
POSITION AT TIME OF GROMYKO MEETING, THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER
WAS UNABLE TO INJECT HIMSELF IN ANY MEANINGFUL WAY.

6. NO NEW SUBSTANTIO DEVELOPMENTS OF ANY CONSEQUENCES
EMERGED FROM THIS MEETING. THERE WERE NO DETAILED DISCUSSIONS
OF THE SPECIFICS OF A DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

7. SECRETARY KISSINGER FEELS THAT HE HAS MADE SOME PROGRESS
IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS, DESPITE THE DIFFICULT INTERNAL
SITUATION WHICH EXISTS HERE AT THE PRESENT TIME -- A SITUATION
IN WHICH THE OLD GOVERNMENT IS ON ITS WAY OUT AND IS RELUCTANT
TO TAKE THE NECESSARY DECISIONS, AND A NEW GOVERNMENT WITHOUT
AUTHORITY IS ON ITS WAY IN.

WARM REGARDS.

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